

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 231820  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:USOAS:MKROMHOUT:FSTARRS:MCH  
APPROVED BY ARA:VPVAKY  
ARA:FMCNEIL  
ARA:SASHELTON  
USOAS:ITRAGEN  
S/S-O :LRFLEISCHER

-----118137 131644Z /43

O 131605Z SEP 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231820

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, NU

SUBJECT: NICARAGUA MFM

1. FYI: WHEN MFM CONVOCATION QUESTION COMES TO VOTE,  
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IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT CONVOCATION GAIN A SUBSTANTIAL  
MAJORITY, TO SHOW CAPACITY FOR ACTION BY OAS, TO PREPARE  
THE GROUND FOR A SUCCESSFUL MFM AND TO PROVIDE ANOTHER  
POSSIBILITY FOR RESOLVING THE SITUATION AND AVOIDING  
FURTHER VIOLENCE AND INTERNATIONAL INCIDENTS. WE WANT  
YOU TO EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO INSURE HOST GOVERNMENT'S  
CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR CONVOKING MFM. END FYI.

2. SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING OF PERMANENT COUNCIL ON VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL TO CONVENE MFM WAS DOMINATED BY NEWS OF NICARAGUAN STRAFING AND POSSIBLE BOMBING OF COSTA RICAN TERRITORY. COSTA RICAN REPRESENTATIVE INITIATED MEETING BY REPORTING ON NICARAGUAN VIOLATION OF COSTA RICA TERRITORY, AND ASSOCIATED COSTA RICA WITH VENEZUELAN REQUEST FOR MFM CONVOCAION BASED ON THREAT TO PEACE CAUSED BY NICARAGUAN ACTIONS. NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR SEVILLA SACASA REJOINED WITH 35 MINUTES OF PREPARED REMARKS ALTERNATING ACCUSATIONS AGAINST COSTA RICA AND ONLY INCIDENTALLY APOLOGETIC EXPLANATIONS OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS. DRAWING ON TREATY CITATIONS AND HISTORICAL DATA GOING BACK THIRTY YEARS TO NICARAGUAN-COSTA RICAN PACT OF FRIENDSHIP OF 1949 SEVILLA SACASA CASTIGATED COSTA RICA AS ACCOMPLICE OF TERRORISTS BECAUSE OF ITS LACK OF VIGILANCE AND CONTROL OVER SANDINISTA AND OTHER ELEMENTS HOSTILE TO NICARAGUA, AS REQUIRED BY BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, AND PROTESTED THAT LATEST INCIDENT MUST BE SEEN AS "INVOLUNTARY BORDER CROSSING" IN HOT PURSUIT OF "UNINTENTIONAL INVASION".

3. IN TURN, COSTA RICAN REP VEHEMENTLY DENIED COMPLICITY WITH ANY ENEMIES OF NICARAGUA, AND CITED DIFFICULTIES OF CONTROLLING BORDER AREA WITHOUT AN ARMY, BUT IN RESTRAINED WAY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PROBLEM COULD BE DEALT WOTH THROUGH DIALOGUE BETWEEN NEIGHBORS. HE RESERVED CONFIDENTIAL

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RIGHT TO INVOKE RIO TREATY AT SOME FUTURE TIME BUT MADE CLEAR HE WAS NOT ASKING FOR MEETING OF CONSULTATION UNDER RIO TREATY AT THIS TIME BUT RATHER FOR MFM UNDER CHARTER.

4. CHAIRMAN (AMBASSADOR MCGEE) OBSERVED THAT TIME TO ASSEMBLE INFORMATION ON WHAT HAD OCCURRED WAS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT NOW, AND ON CLEAR CONSENSUS, POSTPONED DECISION TO VOTE ON VENEZUELAN PROPOSAL WITHOUT SETTING DATE. MEXICO ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR CONVOKING MFM BUT SUPPORTED POSTPONEMENT PROVIDED IT WAS FOR SHORT TIME, AND VENEZUELA AGREED TO POSTPONEMENT FOR "A VERY SHORT TIME". BOTH NOTED THAT BORDER EVENTS OF TODAY HAD PROVED SERIOUS DANGER OF EVENTS ORIGINATING IN NICARAGUA FOR PEACE OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND LATIN AMERICA IN GENERAL. MCGEE ASSURED PERM REPS THERE WOULD BE NO LONG DELAY. PLAN NOW IS TO CONVENE SPECIAL MEETING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, IF POSSIBLE.

5. POSTS SHOULD APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 12 MAKE CRYSTAL CLEAR THE NECESSITY OF AN MFM. THE NICARAGUAN AIR ATTACK ON COSTA RICAN TERRITORY (WHICH MANY DELEGATES

SUSPECT MAY HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY TIMED TO IMPACT ON THE OAS MEETING) DEMONSTRATES THAT THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION AND ITS SPILLOVER INTO THE REGION IS NOW CLEARLY OF URGENT NATURE AND COMMON INTEREST WITHIN THE MEANING OF ARTICLE 59 OF THE OAS CHARTER AND INTERVENTION IS NOT AT ALL AT ISSUE. IT IS UP TO THE OAS TO ACT RESPONSIBLY. THE VERY ACT OF CONVOCATION WILL SERVE TO INTRODUCE AN ELEMENT OF RESTRAINT IN A SITUATION THAT WILL CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE WITH INEXORABLE ADVERSE EFFECTS TO THE SECURITY AND ECONOMY OF THE REGION.

6. WE ASSUME THE RESOLUTION OF CONVOCATION, WHICH WE WILL OF COURSE SUPPORT, WILL DEAL ONLY WITH THE CONCERN THAT REQUIRES A MEETING UNDER ARTICLE 59 AND NOT FORE-  
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SHADOW ANY DECISIONS OF THE MFM, WHICH SHOULD EMERGE FROM CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE MEMBERS IN RESPONSE TO THE DEVELOPING SITUATION. OUR VIEW AT THIS TIME IS THAT THE MFM SHOULD:

-- EXPRESS HEMISPHERIC CONCERN;

-- AUTHORIZE THE SENDING OF A FACT-FINDING MISSION, ALONG THE LINES OF THE FACT-FINDING MISSION THE PERMANENT COUNCIL SENT LAST OCTOBER TO NICARAGUA AND COSTA RICA.

-- CALL FOR ENDING INCURSIONS FROM ONE TERRITORY TO ANOTHER.

-- UNDERLINE SUPPORT FOR THE MISSION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND A CALL FOR A PROMPT REPORT BY IT.

7. WE BELIEVE THE ABOVE COULD RECIEVE THE REQUIRED 2/3'S VOTE. WE WOULD LIKE TO ALSO ACHIEVE AN OAS CALL ON THE PARTIES TO RESTORE POLITICAL PEACE BY INTERNAL NEGOTIATIONS AND CALL FOR SUPPORTING EXTERNAL GOOD OFFICES OR MEDIATION IF THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL, SUCH AS THE CENTRAL AMERICAN INITIATIVE.WE WOULD LIKE TO ELICIT SUPPORT FOR THIS ACTION AS WELL THOUGH THIS MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN.

8. OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR CONVOKING MFM IS NOW BEING MADE KNOWN TO ALL OAS REPS IN WASHINGTON. YOU SHOULD APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENT AT HIGHEST LEVEL YOU JUDGE APPROPRIATE, ASKING FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO CONVOKE MFM AND TO URGE THEM TO SO INFLUENCE OTHER OAS MEMBER COUNTRIES, SO THAT SIZEABLE FAVORABLE MAJORITY WILL BE  
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ON RECORD. PLEASE REPORT BACK HOST GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
THIS EVENING IF POSSIBLE VIA IMMEDIATE NIACT AND NO  
LATER THAN COB THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14. CHRISTOPHER

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP  
APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT  
S/S-O:RSNIDER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231820

EXDIS FOR AMB. YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 231820 ACTION CARACAS  
SANTO DOMINGO LIMA MEXICO BOGOTA QUITO  
BRIDGETOWN KINGSTON PARAMARIBO SAN JOSE  
PANAMA INFO MANAGUA 13 SEP 78.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 231820

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 13 sep 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Subject:** NICARAGUA MFM  
**TAGS:** PINT, PEPR, NU, US, OAS  
**To:** CARACAS SANTO DOMINGO MULTIPLE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014